November 13, 2017

Marie Zimmerman, State Medicaid Director
Minnesota Department of Human Services
P.O. Box 64983
St. Paul, MN  55164-0983

Dear Ms. Zimmerman:

Enclosed for your records is an approved copy of the following State Plan Amendment:

Transmittal #17-0017  --Updates the requirements for telemedicine by allowing mental health practitioners to provide services via telemedicine.

--Effective Date: July 1, 2017

--Approval Date: November 9, 2017

If you have any additional questions, please have a member of your staff contact Sandra Porter at (312) 353-8310 or via e-mail at Sandra.Porter@cms.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Ruth A. Hughes
Associate Regional Administrator
Division of Medicaid and Children’s Health Operations

Enclosures

cc:  Ann Berg, MDHS
     Sean Barrett, MDHS
Medical assistance covers medically necessary services and consultations delivered via telemedicine when performed by a licensed health care provider, or a mental health practitioner working under the supervision of a mental health professional, via telemedicine in the same manner as if the service or consultation was delivered in person. Coverage is limited to three telemedicine services per enrollee per calendar week.

Telemedicine is the delivery of health care services while the patient is at an originating site and the licensed health care provider is at a distant site. A communication between licensed health care providers, or a licensed health care provider and a patient that consists solely of a telephone conversation, e-mail, or facsimile does not constitute telemedicine services. Telemedicine may be provided by means of real-time two-way, interactive audio and visual communications, including the application of secure video conferencing, or store-and-forward technology. Providers utilizing telemedicine must comply with criteria established by the Department in order to demonstrate that a quality assurance process and established protocols for patient safety have been addressed before, during, and after a particular service is delivered via telemedicine.
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